

## **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA)**

### **Factors Considered by DOTD in the Selection of Projects**

**The following is a list of factors which were considered by DOTD in the selection of projects to utilize the funding provided by ARRA to DOTD, through the Federal Highway Administration. A number of these considerations have a major impact on the pool of potential projects, such as those that refer to eligibility requirements, environmental regulatory requirements, project readiness, etc.**

1. Projects selected had to meet regular Federal Aid eligibility requirements, as defined in 23 U.S.C. These are the same requirements that apply to projects implemented through the regular Federal Aid Highway Program on a yearly basis. Projects that would not normally be eligible for Federal Aid Highway funds would not be eligible for ARRA funds.
2. At least 50% of the funding, excluding MPO funds, has to be obligated within 120 days. The remainder of the funding, including MPO funds, has to be obligated within one year.
3. Projects must be in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, and must have all required permits, i.e. Corps of Engineers (Wetlands) Permit, Coastal Use Permit, US Coast Guard Permit, Water Quality Certification, Scenic Stream Permit, as applicable.
4. Construction of the project should be completed within three years.
5. Location of the project (consideration was given to insure a geographic distribution of projects throughout the State, as well as consideration given to selecting projects in economically distressed areas (for this consideration, maps provided by FHWA and the Delta Regional Authority identifying economically distressed areas were used)
6. The impact of the expenditure on the traveling public and the State as a whole. Factors involved in this item include cost of the project, traffic volumes, economic impact, route continuity (projects supporting and enhancing previous expenditures), roadway classification..
7. Consistency with Louisiana Statewide Transportation Plan and State Transportation Improvement Program.